

Bill of Rights and their Controversies

Shared by: MIT K12Maker team, Nebus and Zoe

Specialized tools and materials used:	Experience level required:
3d printer, laser cutter Basic electronics, MaKey MaKey, Scratch	9-10th grade

Grade Level and Subject: 9th-10th grade US History

Topic/Content Standards: Constitution and Bill of Rights

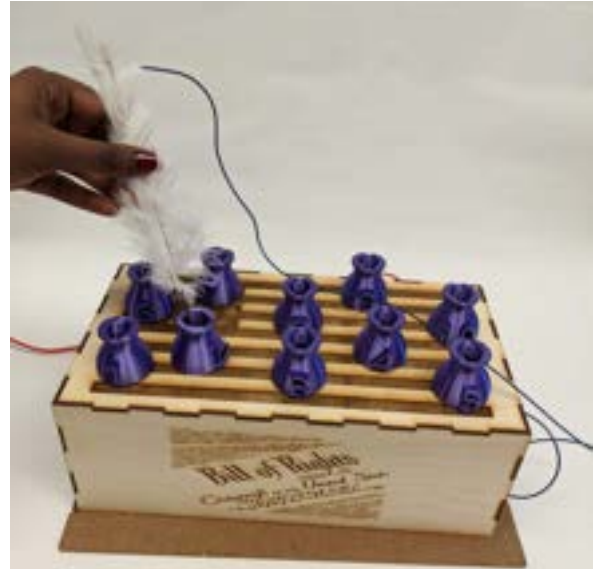


Summary of Project:

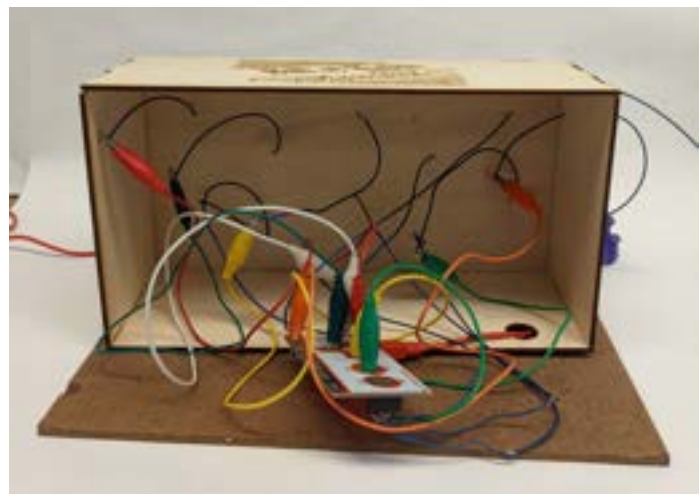
Students work in groups on projects about the Bill of Rights and the controversies that surround them. Students use MaKeyMaKey and Scratch along with a model they create. In this sample the model is intended to be an old-fashioned desk with quill pens and inkwells, to recall the late 1700s when the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights were drafted. The top of the desk is engraved with a US flag.

Students record an audio clip about each of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights, describing the purpose and the controversies, then upload them in a Scratch coding project. The desk model has 10 inkwells on top (each with a wire to the Makey Makey) and a quill (wired to Ground). All the wiring and the Makey Makey (a device that simulates

keyboard presses and interfaces easily with Scratch) are hidden under the desk. When the quill is dipped in the inkwell, the circuit is connected and the designated audio clip will play on the computer.



*“The **Second Amendment** protects the right to keep and bear arms. This right is controversial whether it protects an individual’s right to keep and bear arms or only applies to militia organizations such as the National guard. Some argue that adding more gun regulation laws would reduce gun deaths while others think that gun ownership deters crime.”*



Suggested resources

- [Scratch Introduction](#)
- [Bill of Rights](#)
- [Understanding the “Makey-Makey”](#)
- [MakeyMaKey Website](#)
- [Scratch file for example](#)